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TRANSFORMERS
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ENERGON UNIVERSE

TRANSFORMERS

ISSUE TWENTY-NINE

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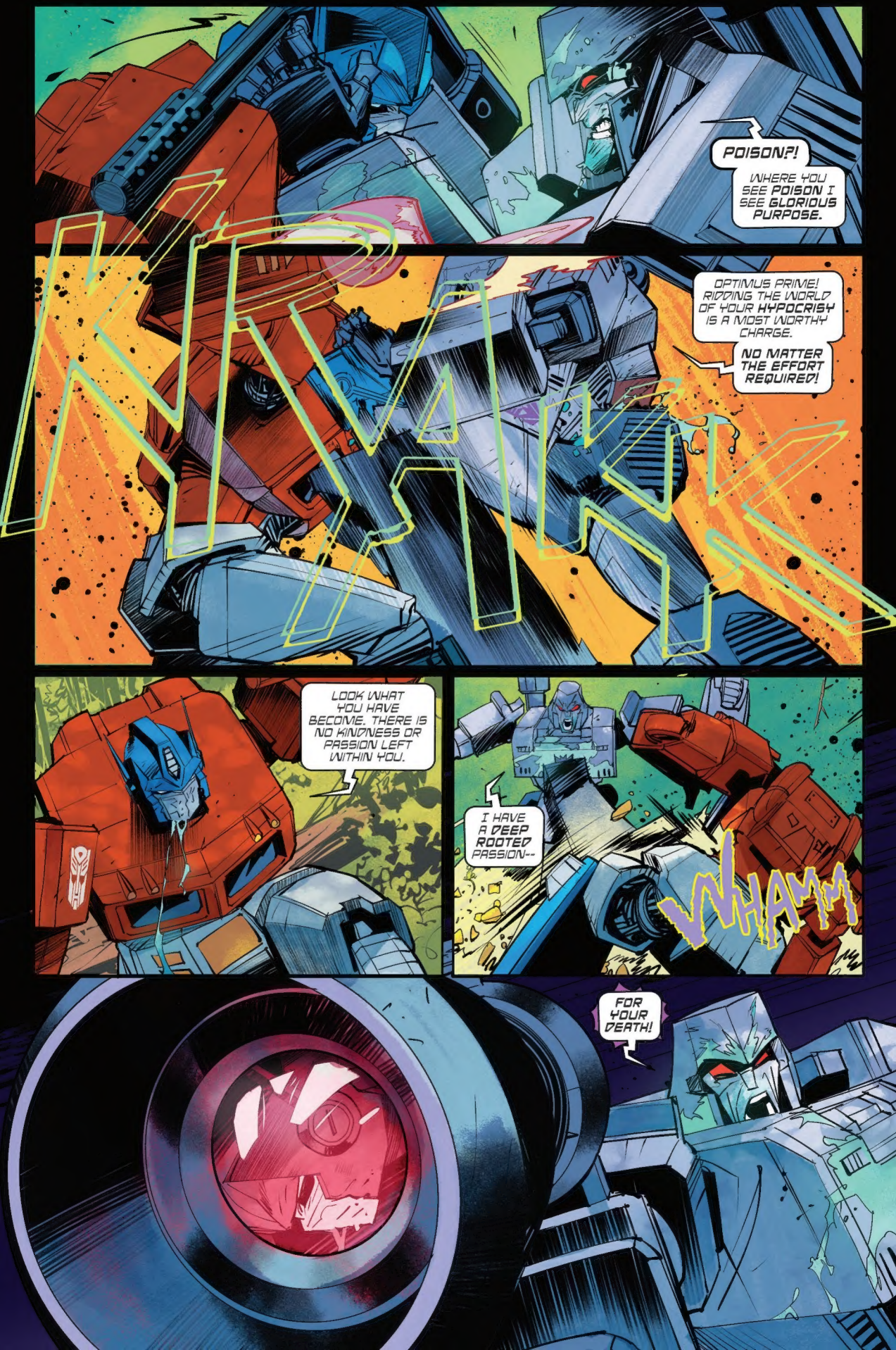
IN YOUR HONOR, I WILL SAVOR EVERY DROP.
...
MEGATRON!!

I WILL END YOU FOR WHAT YOU HAVE DONE!
SHRAKK!
=HRAKK!=
IT IS LONG PAST TIME YOU PAY FOR YOUR FOUL DEEDS, DECEPTICON.
THE POISON OF OUR CONFLICT HAS SPREAD FAR ENOUGH!


POISON?!
WHERE YOU SEE POISON I SEE GLORIOUS PURPOSE.
KRAK
OPTIMUS PRIME! RIDDING THE WORLD OF YOUR HYPOCRISY IS A MOST WORTHY CHARGE.
NO MATTER THE EFFORT REQUIRED!
LOOK WHAT YOU HAVE BECOME. THERE IS NO KINDNESS OR PASSION LEFT WITHIN YOU.
I HAVE A DEEP ROOTED PASSION--
VWHAM!
FOR YOUR DEATH!

MIND IF I CUT--
BITCH!
FOOLISH AUTOBOT. YOU'LL SOON--
CRASH
CITA
NO--

CONSTRUCTICONS--!
OUR ADVANTAGE IS LOST. GET TO THE ARK-- COMPLETE THE MISSION!
GO!
WRA
YOU CONTINUE TO UNDERESTIMATE US, MEGATRON. IT WILL BE YOUR UNDOING.
MAYBE SO, PRIME.
BUT NOT TODAY.

VZAT!
VZAT!
KR
ZAP!

THERE. TO THE RIGHT OF MY CELL. CONTROLS EASILY ACCESSED. DESTRUCTION WILL BRING DOWN FORCE BARRIER. HURRY.
YOU HEARD HIM! GET--
GO AHEAD-- OPEN HIS CELL.
SO WE CAN PUT YOU IN RIGHT NEXT TO YOUR BUDDY SOUNDWAVE.

ZAP!
I'D LIKE TO SEE YOU TRY!
GOOD WORK.
VZAP!
HOLD YOUR GROUND!
VZAP!
VZAP!
THESE GUYS AREN'T GOING ANYWHERE!
CONSTRUCTICONS! FORM DEVASTATOR!
BUT THE OTHERS--

KROOM!!
GO!
DEVASTATOR WILL CRUSH PUNY AUTOBOTS!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
VZAP!
MORE LIKE HALF-DEVASTATOR! BUT STILL DEADLY.
ARCEE-- LOOK OUT!

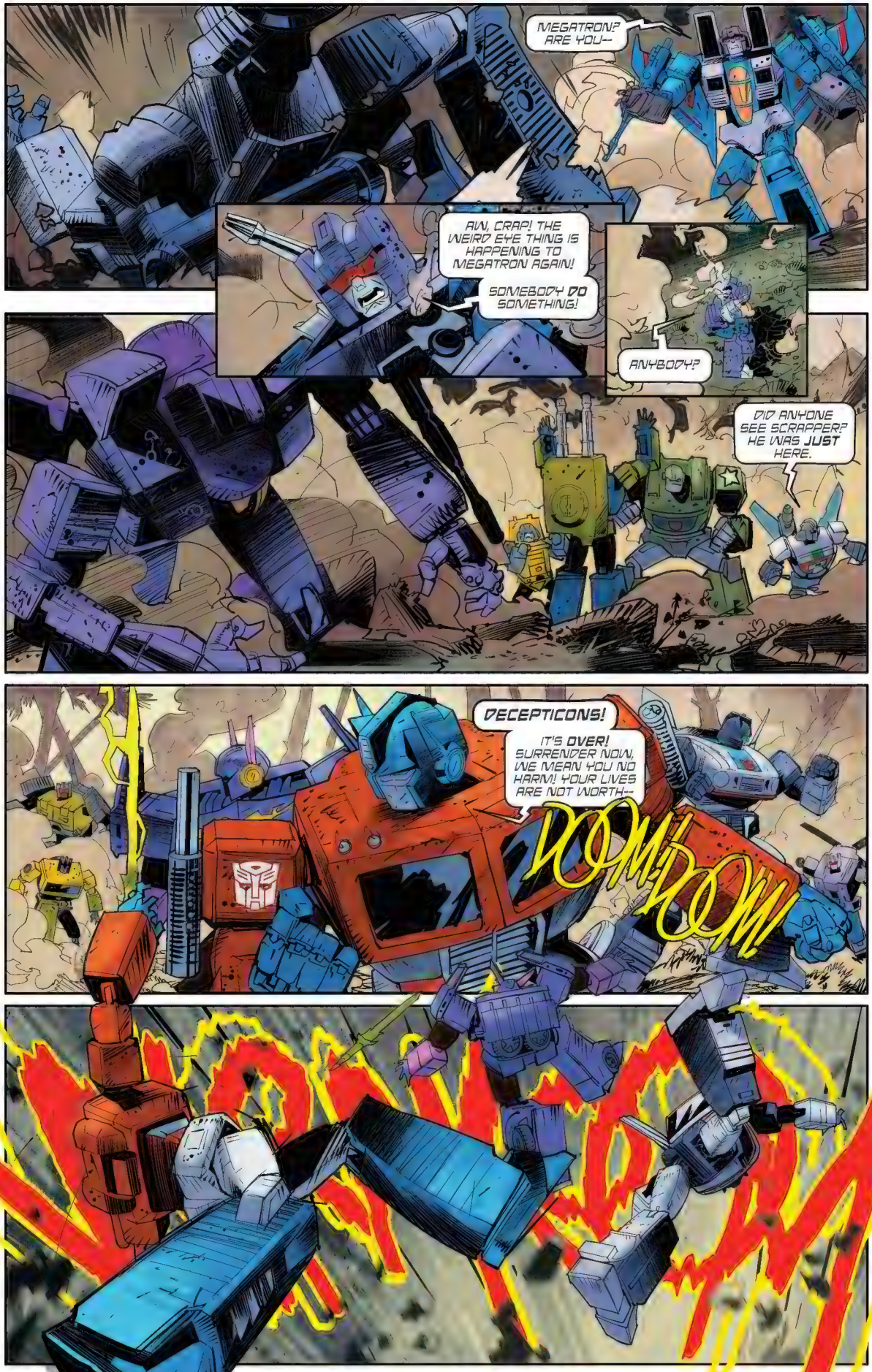
GOT YOU!
OH YEAH, BRUTICUS?! YOU GOT ME?! WE'LL SEE ABOUT THAT!
BWHOOM
FOOLISH OPTIMUS! STILL HAVEN'T HAD ENOUGH!
I'LL GET--
KRAK
MIGHT WANT TO--
-:ACK!:-
CLEAR OUT OF HERE!
WHOOM
NICE MOVES, BUT YOU CAN'T KILL--
WHAT YOU CAN'T HIT!

BAM!
BAM!
BAM!
WRAK
WRAKK
ZAP!
KEEP IT UP! THEY'RE STARTING TO BREAK!

IT'S CLEAR YOU ARE A CORROSION THAT NEEDS TO BE REMOVED.
NOT--
BY--
YOU!
BULKHEAD ALMOST HAS BRUTICUS DOWN! HE NEEDS OUR HELP!
LOOK OUT BELOW!
VZAPP!
VZAPP!
VZAPP!
OVER HERE, ACTUALLY!
THAT'S IT--PUSH!

VZAP!
VZAP!
KRAK
VZAP!
KRAK
OM!
ENOUGH!
COMBATICONS! DIVIDE AND CONQUER!
SOMEONE DOESN'T KNOW WHEN HIS TAILPIPE IS K--
BRAM
VAK
THANKS, OPTIMUS.
WE NEED YOU, WHEELJACK. THIS FIGHT ISN'T OVER YET!

DON'T BOTHER TO GET UP, TRAITOR. YOU'RE RIGHT WHERE YOU BELONG.
ON YOUR KNEES, WELCOMING OBLIVION.
ARRGGH!


MEGATRON? ARE YOU--
AW, CRAP! THE WEIRD EYE THING IS HAPPENING TO MEGATRON AGAIN!
SOMEBODY DO SOMETHING!
ANYBODY?
DID ANYONE SEE SCRAPPER? HE WAS JUST HERE.
DECEPTICONS!
IT'S OVER! SURRENDER NOW, WE MEAN YOU NO HARM! YOUR LIVES ARE NOT WORTH--
DOOM
DOOM
DOOM

DECEPTICONS! RETREAT!!
KRO
OW
SOUNDWAVE'S FREE! LET'S GET OUT OF HERE!
MEGATRON. MY MASTER.

I WON'T LEAVE YOU
AUTOBOTS! WE HAVE THEM RIGHT WHERE WE WANT THEM! OUR TIME OF VICTORY IS AT HAND!
WE CAN'T LET THE DECEPTICONS GET AWAY.
NO!
LEAVE THEM TO RULE THIS INSIGNIFICANT PLANET OF MUD!

IT'S LONG PAST TIME YOU ANSWER TO ME!

THE MATRIX OF LETTERSHIP

SEND LETTERS TO
TRANSFORMERS@SKYBOUND.COM

OH CRAP! Elita-1 is back? Talk about a cliffhanger ending for the penultimate issue of the arc, haha! Wait'll you see what comes next! Ben Abernathy, reporting for letter column duty, alongside writer Robert Kirkman!

That's me! I'm in italics! I hope you guys enjoyed this ACTION-PACKED issue of TRANSFORMERS that will be followed by a pretty eventful final issue of this arc coming next month. I still can't believe I'm already nearly one arc deep into my run writing this series! What a joy! I can't wait for you all to see what we have in store for you. Cool stuff on the horizon, we promise!

Let's dig into this mailbag!

Hi Robert,

Thanks to you, I'm back as a regular reader of Transformers comics and have loved everything from #25 to present. THIS is what a Transformers comic book should have been from the start. And wow, the artwork for #27 was GORGEOUS. So *that's* what Carly looks like! Dan Mora is amazing. THIS is the right way to draw Transformers, I have to say. And Robert, thank you for including obscure characters like Bulkhead. It seemed like the previous creative team was stuck on using just one set of characters and never wanted to venture out and explore other Transformers (there's a lot of them out there that never get used). And YES, we finally see Blaster!!! One of the most underused, beloved characters in TF fandom. I hope to see Blaster's cassettes too since Soundwave and his cassettes need some competition.

Keep up the great work. And thanks for making this comic worth reading,
Myst

Well, Myst. While I appreciate the kind words, I must say, this comic was more than worth reading long before I came along (as evidenced by its record-breaking sales and many accolades). I'm just really trying to keep the seats warm and not steer the ship into some rocks after such a spectacular run from Daniel Warren Johnson, Jorge Corona and their many collaborators.

Hey guys! I just finished reading issue 27 and goodness gracious...It was amazing. I don't know how you guys seem to constantly deliver. Something that I've definitely been noticing is how through each speech bubble, I can hear every part of the character perfectly. I had a few questions for the team. 1.) Are more Combiners like Defensor on the table?

Well, on a long enough timeline we should see EVERYONE eventually. As time goes on the cast will just keep filling out and expanding, but we'll see characters moving in and out of the story so it never gets too crowded. So, Defensor? Yeah, sure…eventually. When? We'd never tell!

2.) What's the average production timeline for an issue?

Ideally, one month. Realistically, usually, at best, 5 weeks. That's why books that ship monthly (like ours) have fill-in artists or fully rotating art teams to carry the burden. Sometimes it can take much longer depending on the artist's style and speed. It can take a writer a few days to a week (or sometimes more) to write a script. A colorist can usually color a book in a similar time frame. Which is why comic writers and colorists often do 3-5 books a month. A letterer takes a day or three to letter, but they are very often at the end of the production schedule and very rushed. It's unfortunate. But the artwork of the book takes the longest. There's a rare few artists in the industry who do more than a page a day, but that's typically the absolute fastest an artist can work. Which is why comics were traditionally 22 pages because there's 22 work days in a month. These days artists are usually a bit slower…and FUN FACT the industry caters to writers to the point where very often…us lazy writers are so late with our scripts we delay the artists from even starting and the artist still gets all the blame for late books! It sucks! Speaking of which…I need to finish this up and get back to finishing some scripts!

3.) Is there any sort of adaptation that's on the table? I'd love to see the Energon Universe in animation. Or even an official comic dub would be absolutely fantastic.

Nothing to announce here, sadly. We're just focused on making great comics!

Thank you all for making one of the most compelling and character driven stories in the transformers franchise, and I can't wait to see more.

Sincerely,
Kanoa

Thank you for writing in, Kanoa!

Hey Robert and the Energon team,

SLIPSTREAM!!??! And she actually looks like a Seeker this time! You guys really know your stuff!

Boo yah!

It's so cool that y'all are putting some more obscure characters who didn't originate during the 80s into the books! It's always a pleasant surprise to see characters from all over the Transformers franchise make it into new media! The thought that Slipstream and Bulkhead could open the floodgates for more non-80s characters like Barricade, Airachnid, Lugnut, Shatter and Dropkick, Windblade, Tarn, and especially Flamewar to possibly appear one day excites me like you wouldn't believe!

Can I reveal here that ONE of those characters will be showing up within the next five issues!

Not asking for any specifics (I love how y'all keep the cameos a surprise!), but should we keep our eyes peeled for more in the coming issues? And what are y'alls favorite non-G1 characters? Keep up the amazing work!

Here's to a long-lasting Transformers run with Skybound,
Ryan K :)

Appreciate you taking the time to write us, Ryan and we love your enthusiasm! And favorite non-G1 character? Hmm…I'd probably say Windblade?

For me, it was always Bulkhead, I just love that guy. Naming any further characters would just spoil some upcoming reveals. So stay tuned.

Dear Robert & Co.,

SLIPSTREAM! IT'S SLIPSTREAM! Slipstream is here, and I'm so happy! :D She looks like she's in pretty bad shape, but I believe in her…she can recover from anything. (I wonder if there's any reason you decided to introduce her right when Starscream left the picture…? Nah, probably not. I'm told writers never have reasons for doing things. But if you're just messing with me, and she DOESN'T wake up, I'll be very mad.)
That is to say, as much as I love the original cartoon cast, I'm thrilled to see later characters like Bulkhead and Slipstream (!!!!!!!) show up. I wonder who else we'll see…? Because it should be Blackarachnia. (Hey, sue me, I like evil women.)
And I wonder what's going on with Matt Trakker and Miles Mayhem! Mentioning Matt reminded me to catch up with G.I. Joe. It's great to see the Energon Universe interact with itself more. You gearing up for a big event, or something? I'm totally seated if you are. Anyways, keep up the great work! I can't wait to see where Autobot Thundercracker goes, and GOOD LUCK, CLIFFJUMPER…!

JG Piff

SO much excitement for Slipstream, I love it. And definitely stay tuned for more on Trakker and Mayhem ;)

Yes, indeed! It may seem like we've seen the last of Mayhem for a while…but he'll be popping back up when you least expect it!

Hey Transformers team!

I've recently gotten into Transformers about a year ago, and these comics are definitely in my top 3 favourite pieces of Transformers media. I love how non-G1 cartoon characters are starting to be introduced! Seeing Slipstream and Bulkhead in issue 27 was such a treat! I also really love how things are starting to look more optimistic for the Autobots on Earth! Speaking of non-G1 cartoon characters, do you have any plans to have characters from the Japanese G1 continuity show up? I think the Pretenders would be a really cool addition, even if they're off just doing their own thing on Earth.

Thanks for everything!
Lily

Thank you for writing in, Lily, and for supporting our series…so thrilled you're enjoying it. And right now there's no plan to incorporate any characters from the Japanese continuity, but as I so often say, who knows what the future holds!

Ben speaks the truth! There could be some Star Convoy or Genrai in our future…one can never guess!

Hi Robert and Dan,

I've just finished reading issue 27 and man what a great issue it is. The artwork and writing is so good. The Transformers comic series has been my first real exposure to the brand and I have to admit it's been a great adventure. I have only within the last year gotten into comics and attribute the Transformers title as a real influence for getting onboard. I would like to say how seamless the story has been able to continue following the end of DWJs fantastic run.
The journey of Thundercracker to becoming an Autobot has been awesome to see. What a great evolution of a character. Shockwave being alive, I did not expect that either. This leaves me wondering what else can u expect. Maybe Dinobots ? And how is the end of issue 26 with Megatron going to tie into the story? Dan as well. Your artwork is amazing and I wish you could stay on the book for longer. Where do you get the time to draw all these great panels? Hopefully this isn't too long. But just want to say guys, you are doing a great job and I hope this letter reaches you all the way from Scotland.

Thanks, Blair

I love letters from Scotland (in fact, I just LOVE Scotland!)…thanks for writing in, Blair, and I'm glad you're liking the book. Also, Dan had this response to your question:

I'm glad you like the work, I just try to be disciplined and organized with my time.

Be honest, Dan! It's elves! You've got elves that come out at night and finish panels for you. Now Blair, what's this you say about Dinobots? What are those? I need to look into that obscure corner of Transformers lore…sounds VEEEERY interesting.

And that's a wrap for this month! See y'all in 30 days for the stunning end to arc five!

-Ben

I can't believe it's already the end…of our first arc! Be here next month for some wild swings and some crazy turns. It's all been leading to this (and so much more)!!

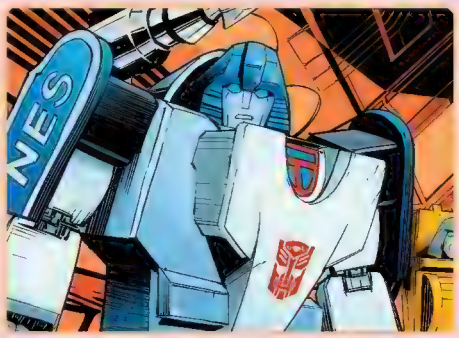
-Robert

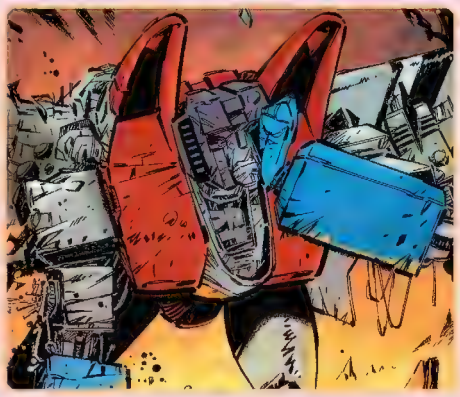
ENERGON EXPERIENCE

There's nothing quite like a huge battle between the Autobots and Decepticons to get the blood pumping! Seeing Dan Mora deliver this [illegible] page by page, was nothing short of a front row seat to my favorite part of the [illegible] memories from my childhood! I hope it brought you as much as I did!

B[illegible]!

[illegible]





CHARACTER SPOTLIGHT

WHO: Mirage

WHERE: A fierce and dedicated Autobot warrior.

WHAT: Mirage has only recently re-awakened but he's making up for lost time! A seasoned warrior, Mirage also has the unique ability to create holograms.

UH OH, MOM'S HOME!

Elita-1 is a unique character in the pages of this series as she's one of the only bots to have fought Decepticons on both Cybertron and Earth. Elita has been fighting a grueling war with minimal resources for eons, losing many friends along the way, and we've seen her patience with Optimus Prime wearing thin. I suspect Optimus is NOT going to like the conversation they're about to have...

CREATOR SPOTLIGHT

Q: This issue's amazing colorist, Sarah Stern, joins us for this month's MOST IMPORTANT QUESTION--Sarah, if you had an alt mode, what would it be?

A: For sure an ice cream truck. Imagine chasing down Decepticons while blasting glitchy down-pitched jingly music! I want Starscream to flinch every time he hears "The Entertainer".

THE ENERGON UNIVERSE CHECKLIST

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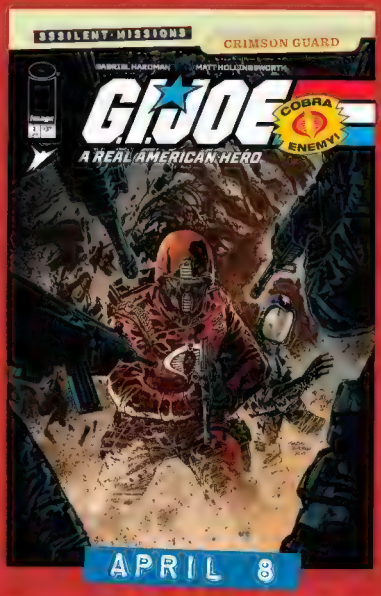

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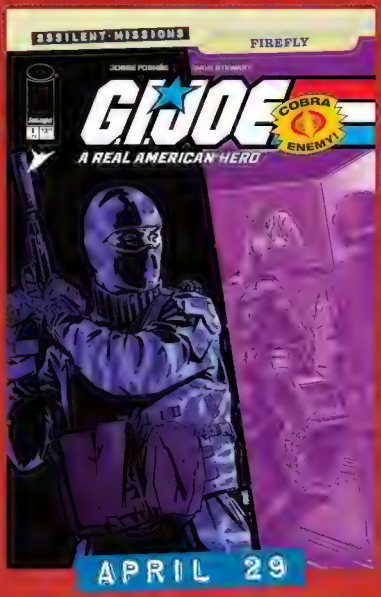

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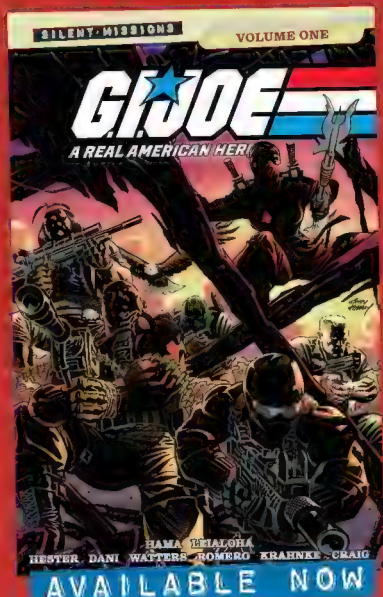

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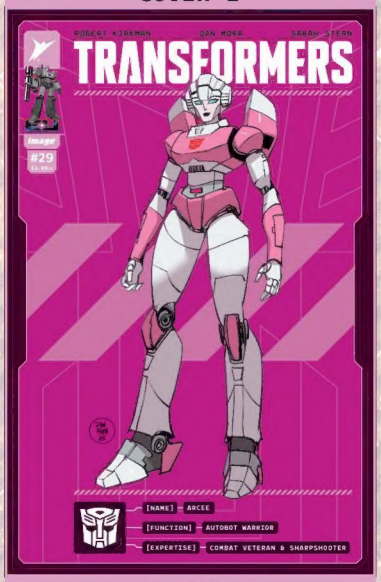

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